

## Report on the Stay in Sweden

Due to the stipend provided by the Foundation for the Furtherance of Swedish – Russian Relations I have got the opportunity to spend three months in Stockholm. My visit was split in two parts, from May 10 to June 9, 2011 and from September 1 to October 24, 2011. I was based at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs (UI) working under the supervision of Dr. Lena Jonson, Head of the Institute's Russia Research Program.

After discussions with Dr. Jonson, the topic of my research was defined as “The Turmoil in Kyrgyzstan: a Challenge to Russian Foreign Policy”. The research focused on the analysis of Russian government's reaction to the recent political developments in Kyrgyzstan and the outbreak of ethnic violence in the country in June 2010 as well as on Moscow's handling of regional and international repercussions of the developments in Kyrgyzstan. It resulted in the submission of two papers, a UI Brief and a UI Occasional Paper. The draft of the Occasional Paper was discussed at a working seminar where experts from the UI, the SIPRI, the Defense College and the University of Stockholm participated. It was also disseminated among the members of the board of the Swedish Society for the Study of Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Doing research, I had meetings and professional discussions with experts on Central Asia and the post-Soviet space from the UI, SIPRI, the Institute for Security and Development Policy and the University of Stockholm as well as with Mr. Hans Olsson, the Ambassador of Sweden to the countries of Central Asia, and Mr. Torgny Hinnemo, an independent journalist with extensive expertise in the countries of the former Soviet Union. The discussions were very valuable and enriching and touched on a broad range of issues related to the post-Soviet developments.

I took part in a number of seminars organized by the UI, in particular on the “Arab Spring”, the Russian post-Soviet history and the Swedish – Czechoslovak solidarity during the Cold War period. I also had the opportunity to deliver a lecture on the Russian policy in Central Asia to a group of master students at the Stockholm University's Department of Oriental Languages. The lecture found an interested audience, and many questions were asked. I used the resources of the Anna Lindh Library actively, which allowed for a significant updating and refining of the courses on International Relations Theory and Post-Soviet Countries that I teach at my home University.

My stay in Sweden was culturally and socially enriching. I got the opportunity to live in two different parts of Stockholm, Soedermalm and Oestermalm, and was received as a guest in a number of Swedish houses. I explored Stockholm and Uppsala extensively and was fascinated by their parks, churches and monuments. I visited many of Stockholm's museums and learned a lot about Sweden's nature, history, and material and spiritual culture.

I evaluate my stay in Sweden as successful, highly beneficial for my professional prospects and enriching for my cultural background. I made many friends in Sweden with whom I will keep in touch in the future. I would like to thank the Foundation for the Furtherance of Swedish – Russian Relations, in particular Ambassador Sverker Astrom and Ms. Disa Hastad, for a generous stipend and the colleagues from the UI for a warm reception and a genuine interest in my work.

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